

Remarks

Claims 14-15 and 19-20 were rejected as unpatentable over BANAEI 2004/0203751 in view of STEWART et al. 6,970,927. Claims 16 and 21 were rejected as unpatentable further in view of LABUN et al. 6,842,621 and claims 17-18 and 22-23 were rejected as unpatentable further in view of KOSTIC et al. 2003/0134642. The previously pending claims have been replaced with new claims and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The new claims do not introduce any new matter. Claims 24 and 31 correspond to the second embodiment of page 23, line 20, through page 25, line 3. Claims 25 and 32 correspond to the third embodiment on page 25, line 5, through page 26, line 8. Claims 26-27 and 33-34 correspond to the fourth embodiment on page 26, line 30, through page 32, line 10. Claims 28-30 and 35-37 correspond to the sixth embodiment on page 33, line 30, through page 35, line 9.

The system and method of claims 24 and 31 include: a user terminal for a user; and a plurality of wireless LAN base stations shared by a plurality of service providers for providing an Internet-access service. The plurality of service providers includes a first service provider to be contracted with the user and a second service provider not to be contracted with the user. The plurality of wireless LAN base station includes a first wireless LAN base station managed by the first service provider

and a second wireless LAN base station managed by the second service provider.

The feature of claims 24 and 31 includes obtaining a one-time password and one-time ID valid for a given time, when the user terminal is connected to the second wireless LAN base station; connecting the user terminal to the second wireless LAN base station using the one-time password and one-time ID; collecting data of a communication amount and communication time of the user terminal, when the user terminal is connected to the second wireless LAN base station; and enabling the first service provider to pay a charge on usage of the second wireless LAN base station to the second service provider in accordance with the communication amount and communication time.

This makes it possible to prevent the ID and password of the user from being leaked to the second service provider (non-contracted provider) than the first service provider (contracted provider) (see page 25, lines 1-3). In addition, the user of the first service provider can connect to the second service provider without the need for the user to pre-register the ID and password of the user in the second service provider.

Further, the feature of dependent claims 25 and 32 includes informing the second service provider of a MAC address of the user terminal, when the user terminal is connected to the second wireless LAN base station; and authenticating whether or not to permit connection between the user terminal and the second

wireless LAN base station based on the MAC address. This makes it possible to ensure roaming even if the wireless LAN base station is doing authentication based on the MAC address (see page 26, lines 26-28). In addition, the user of the first service provider can connect to the second service provider without the need for the user to pre-register the MAC address of the user in the second service provider.

Further, the feature of dependent claims 26 and 33 includes setting a time band for using the second wireless LAN base stations for each of the plurality of service providers; and refusing connection of the user terminal when a time of usage thereof is out of the set time band for using the second wireless LAN base station. This makes it possible to keep a constant communication quality and reduce a cost increase due to an increase of the number of wireless LAN base stations.

Further, the feature of dependent claims 27 and 34 includes ranking each of users of the first service provider in accordance with charge plans on usage of the second wireless LAN base station; and restricting connection in order from the each of users with a lower rank, in case that an average communication speed per user falls below a predetermined communication speed or in case that a number of connections to the second wireless LAN base station exceeds a preset number of connections of simultaneously connectable users. This makes it possible to keep a constant communication quality and reduce a cost increase due

to an increase of the number of wireless LAN base stations.

Further, in the system and method of dependent claims 28-30 and 35-37, the plurality of wireless LAN base stations includes a third wireless LAN base station which is pre-sited in common space of a shopping center and is managed by a manager of the shopping center. The system and method further comprise obtaining a one-time password and one-time ID valid for a given time, when the user terminal is connected to third second wireless LAN base station; connecting the user terminal to the third wireless LAN base station using the one-time password and one-time ID; collecting data of a communication amount and communication time of the user terminal, when the user terminal is connected to the third wireless LAN base station; and enabling the first service provider to pay a charge on usage of the third wireless LAN base station to the manager in accordance with the communication amount and communication time.

The feature of dependent claims 29 and 36 includes setting a time band for using the third wireless LAN base stations for each of the plurality of service providers; and refusing connection of the user terminal when a time of usage thereof is out of the set time band for using the third wireless LAN base station.

The feature of dependent claims 30 and 37 includes ranking each of users in accordance with charge plans on usage of the third wireless LAN base station; and restricting connection in order from the each of users with a lower rank, in case that an

average communication speed per user falls below a predetermined communication speed or in case that a number of connections to the third wireless LAN base station exceeds a preset number of connections of simultaneously connectable users.

The feature of claims 28-30 and 35-37 makes it possible to appropriately adjust the number of users using the third wireless LAN base station pre-sited in common space of the shopping center.

The applicant has very carefully studied the applied art and is of the opinion that the new claims avoid the combinations suggested in the Official Action. Accordingly, the new claims avoid the rejections and are patentable over the art of record.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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